

COVER STORY

**FINDING THE
LOVE
YOUR SOUL
DESIRES**

Photo Credit: Bill Morrison Photography

I often talk to both men and women about things that they desire in a potential spouse or partner. The responses range from physical preferences, income requirements, honesty, and much more. But ultimately, everyone wants to be respected, heard, and loved unconditionally. Those qualities come in all colors, shapes, and sizes; however, society glorifies the tall, the curvy, the pretty, and the handsome. When we meet someone who we enjoy talking to and spending time with, many become conflicted when that person doesn't embody society's preferred physical qualities.

Then, I came across a couple, Myra and Shane, who embodied love, admiration, and appreciation of one another, despite Myra being a statuesque woman at 5'9 - almost a half-foot taller than Shane. Yet Shane, a successful attorney and

NFL & NBA sports agent, has the same masculinity and confidence as the tallest of men. More importantly, he is an amazing husband and provider for Myra and their family. Myra knows this, and is so appreciative of Shane, especially after previously being in an emotionally abusive relationship with someone else. Their relationship intrigued me so much that I reached out to Myra to see if she would share their love story. She did and it was more than I could have imagined. Love transcends the physical, and their relationship is proof that at the end of the day, how a person makes you feel behind closed doors is critical in choosing a life partner and mate.

As I share Myra's interview, remember to forget about what people may say about you as a couple. If he or she warms your heart, spirit, and



soul, then they are a keeper. Here's a portion of the interview with Myra that shows just that:

Question: *Thank you so much for sharing your journey Myra! Let's start off with how you and Shane met?*

Myra: So, at Southern University, I'm not sure if you're aware, we couldn't have cars as freshmen. My suitemates used to call Shane, who was a sophomore, and he used to drive and come get us and bring us across the hump to McDonald's to get food. I was just riding along because my suitemates had a way to get food.

Fast forward to my sophomore year at Southern, Shane's junior year. I pledged Delta and he pledged Alpha. We threw parties together and did different things with the Alphas. Well, that summer I ended up breaking up with a football player, and Shane and I started really talking on the phone and just really became friends. We got closer and closer and closer. Then, after Shane graduated, he was supposed to be hooking me up with this guy. I went to his

[Shane's] house and we're waiting and waiting and waiting. And now it's like 10 o'clock. And I'm like, "You know what? I don't have time for this." Shane's like, "let's just wait 30 more minutes" and I said "okay."

So, we're just sitting down talking. And it's like before you know it is like we're literally almost face to face. And I'm like, what's happening? We're about to kiss. And I'm like, whoa, we don't get down like that, what's happening? This is not okay. We're friends and friends don't kiss.

Five minutes later, the guy shows up. We were kind of looking at each other. Like, you know what, we're never gonna talk about this again. This didn't happen. We're cool, right? Yeah, we're cool. Nothing happened. We kept it moving and the guy came, and we tried for like two weeks and it was like no, I wasn't interested in him.

A month after that situation happened is when Shane and I realized you know what, maybe we should try dating. He was like, okay, let's do this! I was really scared though because really by this time, I valued my friendship with him, and he meant so much to me as a friend. I knew that by starting a relationship, I felt that I would possibly end up losing my best friend in the long run. And I didn't want to do that.

So, I told him we could possibly lose our friendship by us dating and I don't even know if it's worth it. I really do value your friendship and you're such a great person. And he was like, but what if it does work? So, we gave it a shot, and I loved him. You know, it was amazing. It was a great relationship. We had



Photo Credit: Bill Morrison Photography

so much fun. And what ended up happening was I graduated with my bachelor's by then and he graduated with his master's, and then he went to law school.

Question: *So, your relationship just grew from there?*

Myra: Not exactly. As you know, as a law school student, one thing he did not have time for was a relationship. He was in his first semester of law school; make it or break it and I was in a different headspace. I mean, even though I was 22 years old, you know, here I am thinking I have a degree. I'm a teacher. I'm ready to settle down. I need somebody that's ready to settle down and Shane was obviously in a different place because he was just trying to keep his head above water in law school. So, we decided after that first semester to just be friends.

Question: *Wow! What happened after that?*

Myra: Basically, I became involved in a bad relationship. So, I will say this, and I think that this is something that's going to really, hopefully, help somebody that reads this. One thing that I

learned through that bad relationship that I was in, is sometimes when you're in a good relationship, you take it for granted. Right?

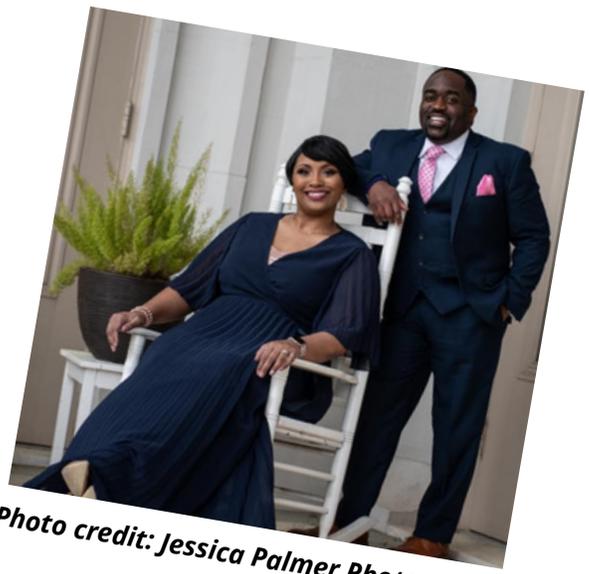
When you have a good guy and you know that he is upstanding and is a Christian, you take advantage of that, and you think that that's the norm, and you quickly forget how truly rare it is. And that's what Shane was to me - he was a good guy. He was, you know, the kind of guy that opens doors, looks out for me, that always puts me first. And I took advantage of that. I didn't realize how good he was to me until I was in a bad relationship.

Being in that bad relationship made me realize that. The new guy that I was dating was taller than me. He had muscles. He was an entrepreneur. He had his own money. Like, everything was great, but he treated me like crap. He was verbally abusive, and he had other chicks on the side. I allowed myself to stay in that situation when I should have not done that. I wouldn't have had to go through that had I stuck it out with Shane. But sometimes we go based on looks and not based on what's right for us. And that's where I messed up.

Anyway, fast forward to 2006. I ended up breaking up that situation and Shane and I reconnected in Dallas and started dating again. I literally had to take things super slow with him and he was very patient with me. But after 2 years, Shane was like, you know I love you. You know, you're the one for me, he said, but this is just not the Myra that I used to know. I was still kind of broken at the time. And by him being so transparent with me, he made me realize that I needed to seek help, to talk to someone to help get over those demons that I had experienced from that other relationship. By him telling me that, I was able to seek counseling. I went to counseling through the church that I was attending at the time, the Potter's House, and it was so beneficial to me. It helped to get some of those emotions that I buried out of my system. It helped me open my heart to have a new relationship and a fresh relationship with Shane. And after I got myself together, we got back together, and we got engaged and ended up getting married in 2011. And the rest is history.

Question: What do you think is the reason that you and Shane have such a good relationship?

Myra: With us being friends we got to know each other differently. Because when you're a friend to someone, you're not looking at them for their physical, you're looking at their heart and their character traits. That's when you really get to know a person - when you stop looking at the physical and get to know the person inside. And that's what our friendship was about - really being there for each other. And I mean talking on the phone for hours, but just strictly as friends. But somehow, you know, just one day those lines crossed, and when they crossed it was almost like a veil that came from over my face and I was like,



(Photo credit: Jessica Palmer Photography)

Oh my gosh, he treats you well. He treats you amazing!

Question: So, I'm curious, with the height difference between you and Shane, do people ever comment on it?

Myra: As a teacher, I've had students who have said, "your husband is shorter than you." And I say that I sometimes love looks different. Sometimes love looks like a man that might be of one ethnicity and a woman of another ethnicity, but they come together because love is love. Love is not based on your height, size, or color. That's how I look at it, and I married my husband because he loves me and he's a good guy!

Thank you Myra & Shane for sharing your incredible story and journey! You have truly inspired people out there who are looking for the kind of love that their soul desires...

